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INFORMATION REPORT

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Germany (Russian Zone)

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SUBJECT

New Plan Concerning Russian Research in
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1. A basic change in all technical-scientific work undertaken or sponsored by the Russians in Germany occurred in early November 1947. Heretofore, any technical unit at Karlshorst was free to initiate work on its own after approval from the specific Moscow ministry. Under the new plan, such work must not only have Moscow clearance but must be approved by the Theatre Commander (Marshal Sokolovsky) in person. Excepted from this ruling were projects which were in process prior to 1 November. These projects will be permitted to continue and approval may be considered granted. In order to circumvent this, some Karlshorst offices pre-dated contracts which are now being effected.
2. According to Major Rivkin, of the Naval Technical Staff at Karlshorst, the Russians continue to emphasize the importance of basic research being performed in Germany because they have few native personnel in the USSR with sufficient initiative and ideas to work out new inventions and to do research. Another reason is the lack of perfection in Soviet precision tools. Once the direction has been outlined and the basic research accomplished, however, the Russians have the necessary technicians to carry a plan through to its completion.
3. One of the last orders completed for the Naval Technical Staff were four target practice devices (Zielfubungsgerat) and three optical devices, all for the HS-293. Also constructed were two gyroscope test desks (Kreiselpruftische). All this equipment was flown to Russia immediately upon its completion.

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 Comment: The paragraph above is an amplification of a report on this shipment made by the same source, 1-8 October. The present report is not clear as to whether or not the test desks were also for the HS-293.

4. The HS-293 was originally scheduled for testing in the USSR during June 1947. This has been delayed by the inability of the Russians to comprehend the complicated system of directing the missile. Although they captured over 100 missiles and sufficient steering devices (Bordgerate) for three aircraft, it was necessary to reconstruct the entire process in Germany before any thought was given to testing them.

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- 2 -

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5. Several parties of officers - in each case approximately six, usually a colonel, two or three majors, one captain and other company grade officers - have visited Germany during recent weeks to study the operation of the target practice devices. All these men have been naval air school instructors with little technical knowledge, but very thorough when instructed. One of them brought details of wind tunnel measurements made on the HS-293. German technicians checking these measurements discovered several mistakes which the Russians refused to admit, pointing out that the figures were in agreement with measurements made on the HS-293 in America. All the officers agreed that interest in the missile was not so much for development and perfection of it in Russia, but for guidance in perfecting improved missiles of this type.
6. Major Rivkin has been transferred to Moscow, where he will work in the Naval section handling the HS-293; he will be in charge of building the target training device as well as training others in the use of the missile. Before departing, however, Rivkin arranged to have a German write a very elaborate statement pointing out how well Rivkin had collaborated with German technicians and how important it was, to the development of this work, that he return to Germany.
7. A great many persons employed by the Naval Technical Staff at Karlshorst are being discharged and it is rumored that this unit is to be liquidated.

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